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Criminal Justice Program

July 2, 1979

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Rt. 2
Frederick, Md. 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Thank you for your letter of June 24 last and the enclosed FD 302. The information on the 302 is reasonably accurate to the best of my present recollection. Of course, Bassett failed to include my opinion that I thought the interview and entire investigation was being handled in a way to suppress information rather than to elicit it. I agree with you that the result was to protect Shanklin. And, also, I think it protected former assistant director John Mohr. Hoover may or may not have known about the letter. I think that the palace guard was beginning to seal him off more and more in the early 1960's. He very probably was not told. But I hold the very strong opinion that Shanklin told Mohr about the letter. Like most SAC's, Shanklin was highly institutionalized. He probably wouldn't go to the bathroom during working hours without asking Bureau permission.

I don't quite understand the end of the final sentence of the FD 302 ". . . if in fact an inquiry had been conducted, he (Schott) was positive that he would have learned of it." To me that seems to infer that I had some sort of pipeline into the everyday workings of the Dallas FBI Office after my retirement. I still have some friends on duty with the Bureau, but I don't waste my time trying to keep track of their administrative problems. If I recall correctly Bassett made a big point of mentioning how long the Bureau had been working on the investigation without my knowledge. I couldn't figure out at the time what in the hell difference it made whether I knew the investigation was going on or not. Also, the idea that I would "leak" it to a Dallas newspaper was ridiculous. I could have sold a feature about the letter to Lloyd Shearer at Parade anytime.

Well, anyway, its all water under the bridge as far as I'm concerned. I heard that they demoted Bassett later. I

don't know whether it came about as a result of the letter investigation or because of something else.

I appreciate your frustration over delayed FOIA requests. I obtained my personnel file by that method and it took more than a year.

Well, thanks again for the 302. I hope that your health improves. I don't have any inside information about the JFK case, except that it was one of the most depressing of my entire career.

Best wishes,

Joseph L. Schott
Director
Criminal Justice Program